

ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AF-00 INL-00 MEDE-00 EAP-00 EUR-00
UTED-00 FOE-00 TEDE-00 IO-00 LAB-01 NEA-00 DCP-00
NSAE-00 OIG-00 PM-00 STR-00 TEST-00 BBG-00 ECA-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4940
INFO CIA WASHINGTON DC
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY WASHDC
DIA WASHINGTON DC//ASD/ISA//
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
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UNCLAS PARIS 005702

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY (FRANK); BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU;
AF/PA; EUR/WE (DEBORAH MENNUTI)/P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA
(BERBENA); INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE
HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR AND PASS USTR/PA
(ANN LUZZATO); USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA; ROME/PA;
BRUSSELS/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - WTO TALKS
PARIS - MONDAY, AUGUST 02, 2004

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. WTO TALKS

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE TOP INTERNATIONAL STORY TODAY IS THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT

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THE WTO SUNDAY. RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO HEADLINES:
"INTERNATIONAL TRADE: A NEW DEAL," ECONOMIC RIGHT-OF-CENTER
LES ECHOS: "TRADE LIBERALIZATION ON TRACK ONCE AGAIN" AND
CENTRIST BUSINESS-ORIENTED LA TRIBUNE: "A LAST MINUTE TRADE
AGREEMENT." (SEE PART C)

IN AN INTERVIEW IN THE ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER
LE FIGARO, THE FRENCH AGRICULTURE MINISTER, HERVE GAYMARD,
COMMENTS THE OUTCOME OF THE GENEVA TALKS: "HATS OFF TO THE
U.S. FOR AGREEING TO REFORM ITS AGRICULTURAL POLICY."

LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION, FOR ITS PART, IS MORE CRITICAL OF
THE WTO AGREEMENT THAT IT QUALIFIES AS "VAGUELY BINDING"
DESPITE THE FACT THAT "FOR THE FIRST TIME THE U.S. HAS MADE A
REAL GESTURE BY AGREEING TO CUT BACK ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES."

THE ATTACKS TARGETING CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ ON SUNDAY ARE ALSO ON
TODAY'S FRONT-PAGES, FOR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO: "THE
INFLUENCE OF RELIGION IS INCREASINGLY TANGIBLE WITHIN THE
GUERILLA MOVEMENT AGAINST THE COALITION AND THE INTERIM
GOVERNMENT. IT IS THE ISLAMIST FUNDAMENTALISTS THAT ARE THE
BACK-BONE OF THE TERRORIST GROUPS."

CATHOLIC LA CROIX'S HEADLINE: "HOSTAGES AND ATTACKS, THE
FUNDAMENTALISTS' WEAPONS." THE REPORT FROM FALUDJA BY LA
CROIX'S CORRESPONDENT PUTS FORWARD THAT: "THE TOWN HAS BEEN
ABANDONED BY THE AMERICANS AND LEFT AT THE HANDS OF AN
ISLAMIST MILITIA."

FRONT PAGE REGIONAL DAILY NORD ECLAIR FEATURES AN EDITORIAL BY
JULES CLAUWAERT ENTITLED "BUSH VS. KERRY: BUT FIRST, IRAQ"
WHICH SUMMARIZES FRENCH MEDIA COMMENTARIES ON THE FOREIGN
POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER ELECTION: "SELDOM
HAS OUR FUTURE, OF THE FRENCH AND OF EUROPEANS, DEPENDED SO
HEAVILY UPON THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. THERE IS NO DOUBT
THAT IRAQ, THE U.S.'S ROLE IN THE WORLD, AND THE SECURITY OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FACED WITH THE THREAT OF TERRORISM ARE
CENTRAL ISSUES. BUT SHOULD AMERICA CONTINUE TO PLAY THE ROLE
OF THE WORLD'S POLICEMAN AND ARBITRATOR? OR WILL IT HAVE TO
RENEW ITS HISTORIC TIES WITH ITS ALLIES? WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK
THE FOLLOWING RHETORICAL QUESTION TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: 'WHO
COULD BE AGAINST A REVIVAL OF GENUINE TRANSATLANTIC
COOPERATION?'"

OVER THE WEEKEND THE FOUR FRENCHMEN WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM
OVER TWO YEARS DETENTION AT GUANTANAMO WERE ORDERED BY A PARIS
JUDGE TO BE PROVISIONALLY JAILED IN THE PARIS AREA. POPULAR
RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE PARISIEN CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH THE
LAWYER, JACQUES DEBRAY, DEFENDING TWO OF THE DETAINEES. "WE
BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. AND FRANCE AGREED TO THE CONDITIONS FOR

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THE REPATRIATION OF THESE MEN AHEAD OF TIME. WE ARE PLANNING ON SUING THE U.S. FOR DAMAGES."

LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION REPORTS THE "PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE INFLICTED ON THESE EX-DETAINEES AT CAMP X-RAY. COMPARABLE TO WHAT THE PRISONERS WERE SUBJECTED TO AT THE ABU GHRAIB PRISON IN IRAQ."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

WTO TALKS

"WORLD TRADE RE-LAUNCHED

RENAUD GIRARD IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (08/02): "A NEW MAP OF WORLD TRADE IS BEING DRAWN AROUND FOUR POLES: THE U.S., THE EU, THE G20 AND THE G90. THE U.S. AND THE EU WERE BLAMED BY THE OTHERS FOR PROTECTIONISM IN TERMS OF THEIR FARMING INDUSTRIES. THE AMERICANS HAVE FINALLY ACCEPTED TO DO AWAY WITH ALL EXPORT SUBSIDIES THAT HINDER GLOBAL TRADE. AND THE EU HAS CONFIRMED BEFORE THE WTO THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO REFORM THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. THE GENEVA TALKS HAVE EFFECTIVELY RE-LAUNCHED THE DOHA ROUND. HISTORICALLY, PROTECTIONISM HAS NEVER BEEN A POLICY THAT PAYS OFF IN THE LONG TERM. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IS LIKE A 'WIN-WIN GAME,' THE BENEFITS ALWAYS OUTWEIGH THE LOSSES."

"TWO LESSONS FROM THE WTO TALKS"

THE EDITORIAL IN ECONOMIC RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS BY JEAN-MARC VITORRI (08/02): "IT IS BETTER TO HAVE A HIGHWAY WITH ONLY ONE LANE OPEN THAN A HIGHWAY THAT IS CLOSED OFF TO TRAFFIC. IN THE SAME WAY, THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN GENEVA. IS BETTER THAN NOTHING. AT LEAST IT MEANS THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD. WE WILL PUT BEHIND US THE TWISTED NEGOTIATIONS, THE CRAZY COMPROMISES AND THE LITTLE INJUSTICES THAT MAKE UP THE FINAL TEXT; THIS IS THE VERY NATURE OF NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS BECAUSE HUNDREDS OF SUBJECTS ARE DISCUSSED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE THAT IN THE END THERE IS AN AGREEMENT THAT SATISFIES NO ONE BUT THAT EVERYONE SIGNS. THE FIRST LESSON WE CAN DRAW FROM THE GENEVA TALKS IS THAT WTO NEGOTIATIONS ARE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX. EACH TIME AROUND THERE ARE NEW ACTORS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. THE SECOND LESSON HAS TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT FRANCE'S POSITION IS INCOHERENT. JACQUES CHIRAC CANNOT POSE HIMSELF BOTH AS THE INDISCRIMINATE PROTECTOR OF FRENCH FARMERS AND UNIVERSAL DEFENDER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." WOLFF

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